

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, SA

SUBJECT: BUREAU OF CENSUS ADVISERS FOR CENTRAL DEPARTMENT
OF STATISTICS

REF: A) JIDDA 5832, B) JIDDA 256, C) STATE 129759

1. WE FIND RETRENCHMENT SUGGESTED BY EMBASSY REF A AS MOST UNTIMELY STEP BACKWARD. DESPITE KOTWA'S FAILURE TO REPORT TO EMBASSY ON RESULTS OF VISIT, REF B INDICATES THAT EMBASSY WAS AWARE LAST JANUARY THAT A PROJECT INVOLVING 20 OR MORE PERMANENT ADVISORS WAS POSSIBLE. A REQUEST FOR A 20-MAN TEAM WAS RECEIVED FROM THE SAG IN APRIL, PURSUANT TO THE AGREEMENT REACHED DURING THE JOINT COMMISSION MEETING IN FEBRUARY. PARA 2 OF REF C STATED THAT A 21-MAN TEAM WOULD BE BUILT UP GRADUALLY OVER COURSE OF FY76. DRAFT PROJECT AGREEMENT WITH SOME MINOR DRAFTING CHANGES HAS BEEN APPROVED BY THE INTERAGENCY ACTION GROUP AND WE ARE READY TO MOVE FORWARD.

2. TREASURY AND CENSUS BUREAU ARE FULLY AWARE OF SHORT-COMINGS OF CENTRAL DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS, AND SCOPE OF UNCLASSIFIED
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PROJECT WAS DETERMINED TAKING THESE FACTORS INTO ACCOUNT. THE BASIC TASK IS TRAINING AND REORGANIZATION, BUT THIS IS

TO BE ACCOMPLISHED OVER THE FIVE-YEAR DURATION OF THE

PROJECT. THE INITIAL THRUST IS TO SET UP A VIABLE ORGANIZATION, AND CENSUS SPECIALISTS REALIZE THEY WILL BE SERVING IN LINE POSITIONS DURING THE FIRST YEARS OF THE PROJECT.

3. WALLER WYNNE ADVISES US THAT IT WAS CLEARLY COMMUNICATED AND UNDERSTOOD BY AMEMBASSY AND SAUDI ARABIAN OFFICIALS THAT THERE IS IMMEDIATE NEED FOR A GEOGRAPHY (NOT A DEMOGRAPHER AS REPORTED REF A) AND PRINCIPAL STATISTICAL ADVISER; THAT A FOREIGN TRADE STATISTICS ADVISER COULD BE READILY ABSORBED AND EFFECTIVELY UTILIZED; THAT THREE DATA PROCESSING ADVISERS SHOULD BE ASSIGNED WITH THE FIRST ADVISORY TEAM ARRIVALS IN OCTOBER TO INITIATE PROGRAM ACTIVITIES AND TO PLAN FOR ASSIGNMENT OF OTHERS WHEN PRACTICAL; AND THAT RECRUITMENT OF BILINGUAL TECHNICIANS (PRIMARILY FROM EGYPT) WAS UNDERWAY FOR PROVISION OF ADEQUATE IN-COUNTRY SUPPORT FOR EFFECTIVE UTILIZATION OF ADDITIONAL ADVISERS, MOST OF WHOM WILL BE NEEDED AS SOON AS THESE PREPARATORY ARRANGEMENTS ARE COMPLETED. CONSULTATION IN WASHINGTON WITH ALI RASHID CONFIRMS THAT RECRUITMENT OF EGYPTIANS IS PROCEEDING.

4. WE FULLY AGREE, HOWEVER, THAT WE WOULD NOT WISH TO PROVIDE PERSONNEL FASTER THAN THEY CAN BE EFFECTIVELY ABSORBED BY SAG, AND WE CONCUR THAT PROJECT DIRECTOR SHOULD HAVE AUTHORITY TO DECIDE ON PACE AT WHICH PROJECT SHOULD BE EXPANDED. INTERAGENCY ACTION GROUP APPROVAL OF PROJECT STATEMENT DOES NOT ALLOW INCORPORATING AT THIS POINT STIPULATION THAT ONLY THREE ADVISERS BE PROVIDED AS ADVANCE GROUP, BUT WE WILL PROCEED ON ASSUMPTION THAT NO MORE THAN SEVEN TEAM MEMBERS WILL BE ON SITE BY END OF YEAR. ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL WILL FOLLOW ONLY AFTER RUMSFORD, IN CONSULTATION WITH USREP AND EMBASSY, IS CONFIDENT THAT THEIR SERVICES CAN BE EFFECTIVELY UTILIZED. INGERSOLL

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